

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /094 W
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R 210833Z JUL 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3148
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISCON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0457

FROM US REP MBFR

USSSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY 17-19

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE JULY
19 PLENARY MEETING, WHICH CONCLUDED THE FIFTEENTH ROUND
OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, SOVIET REP
TARASOV STRESSED THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT
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WAS NOW A MATTER OF WESTERN POLITICAL WILL TO RESPOND
TO THE MAJOR COMPROMISE OFFERED BY THE EAST IN ITS
JUNE 8 PROPOSALS. AT THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE.
EASTERN SPOKESMEN UNDERLINED THE SAME POINT AND EASTERN CORRESP-
ONDENTS SOUGHT TO GET THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN TO CONCEDE THAT IT
WOULD BE REASONABLE TO SET ASIDE EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES
OVER MILITARY MANPOWER DATA SINCE BOTH SIDES ARE NOW

AGREED ON POST-REDUCTION FORCE LEVELS AND CONTROL MEASURES COULD BE EMPLOYED TO ENSURE THAT THOSE LEVELS WERE RESPECTED REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT OF THE REDUCTION REQUIRED TO REACH THEM. IN REPLY TO THE LATTER PROPOSITION, THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THE ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR AN AGREED, PRE-REDUCTION DATA BASE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIFTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED WITH THE PLENARY MEETING OF JULY 19. BOTH SOVIET REP TARASOV AND US DEP REP DELIVERED STATEMENTS AT THAT MEETING. TARASOV OPENED HIS STATEMENT WITH A RELATIVELY UPBEAT ASSESSMENT OF IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE TALKS. IN THIS CONTEXT, SOVIET REP MADE A BRIEF, POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE APRIL 19 WESTERN INITIATIVE, BUT QUICKLY ADDED THAT THE WEST WAS STILL SEEKING UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES. HE THEN PROCEEDED AT LENGTH TO GIVE MAJOR CREDIT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE COMPROMISE PROPOSALS INTRODUCED BY THE EAST ON JUNE 8.

3. SOVIET REP WENT ON TO TAKE A TOUGH LINE ON THE DATA ISSUE, WHICH, HE CHARGED, WAS BEING MANIPULATED BY CERTAIN CIRCLES IN NATO
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COUNTRIES TO COMPLICATE AND POSSIBLY EVEN DISRUPT THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE CALLED THE WESTERN ASSERTION OF A LARGE EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER SUPERIORITY A QUOTE MYTH UNQUOTE AND SAID THAT WESTERN REFUSAL TO DATE TO SUBMIT WESTERN ESTIMATES FOR THE FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL EASTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND TO EXCHANGE AVERAGE MANNING LEVEL DATA CALLED INTO QUESTION WESTERN INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING THE REAL FACTS OF THE SITUATION. SOVIET REP ALSO USED REVIVED EASTERN COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NEUTRON WARHEAD AND CHARGED THAT ITS DEPLOYMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE THE NEGOTIATIONS. TARASOV CONCLUDED BY QUOTING GENERAL SECRETARY BRAZHNEV TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EAST HAS MOVED MORE THAN HALFWAY TOWARDS REASONABLE COMPROMISE AND THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FORCE REDUCTION AGREEMENT IS NOW A MATTER OF WESTERN POLITICAL WILL.

4. IN HIS PLENARY STATEMENT, US DEPREP SAID WESTERN AUTHORITIES WERE CONTINUING TO STUDY AND ASSESS THE EAST'S JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND REVIEW COMMENTS MADE TO DATE BY WESTERN REPS IN VIENNA ON INDIVIDUAL ASPECTS OF THOSE PROPOSALS. US DEPREP

STRESSED THAT WESTERN PROPOSALS, AS AUGMENTED ON APRIL 19, CLEARLY PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND REITERATED THAT AGREEMENT ON MILITARY MANPOWER DATA REMAINED THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF THE TALKS. AT THE END OF HIS STATEMENT, US DEPREP ADDED A SHORT PERSONAL COMMENT QUESTIONING THE PROPRIETY OF THE MENTION OF THE NEUTRON WARHEAD IN SOVIET REP'S PLENARY PRESENTATION. SOVIET REP REPLIED BY CLAIMING THE RIGHT TO RAISE ANY TOPIC BEARING ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

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5. AN ORAL SUMMARY OF THE SOVIET PLENARY GIVEN BY A SOVIET DELOFF TO REPORTERS AT THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE CONTAINED ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED POINTS FROM TARASOV'S TEXT, BUT TREATED THE DATA ISSUE IN MORE MOVERATE TERMS BY OMITTING REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WERE THOSE IN THE WEST WHO WERE TRYING TO MANIPULATE IT TO DISRUPT THE NEGOTIATIONS.

TIATIONS AND TO THE REFUSAL OF THE WEST TO ADOPT
EASTERN SUGGESTIONS AIMED AT CLARIFYING THE REAL
FACTS OF THE SITUATION. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT,
THE EASTERN END-OF-ROUND PRESS SPOKESMAN,
POLISH REP STRULAK, EXPLAINED IN DETAIL WHY EASTERN
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PARTICIPANTS CONSIDERED THEIR JUNE 8
PROPOSALS REPRESENTED A MAJOR COMPROMISE AND REINFO-
RCED THE POINT THAT THE EAST WAS NOW AWAITING FOR THE
WEST TO MAKE AN EQUALLY CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE THAT WOULD
MATCH EASTERN FLEXIBILITY AND THE EAST'S DESIRE FOR
AN AGREEMENT, IN RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM A
WESTERN CORRESPONDENT, STRULAK CONFIRMED THAT THE
EAST CONSIDERED THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
OVERALL MANPOWER REDUCTIONS OF 105,000 FOR WARSAW
PACT FORCES AND 91,000 FOR NATO FORCES NOW BEING
PROPOSED BY THE EAST EQUALLED THE EXISTING DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE
REDUCTION AREA.

6. EARLIER, EASTERN CORRESPONDENTS HAD MADE A CONCERTED
EFFORT TO GET THE WESTERN PRESS SPOKESMAN TO CONCEDE
THAT IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO SET ASIDE EAST-WEST
DIFFERENCES OVER DATA SINCE THERE WAS NOW AGREEMENT
ON THE SIZE OF POST-REDUCTION FORCE LEVELS AND CONTROL
MEASURES COULD BE RELIED UPON TO GUARANTEE THAT
THOSE LEVELS WERE RESPECTED. IN REPLY, THE
WESTERN SPOKESMAN MADE CLEAR WHY AN AGREED PRE-
REDUCTION DATA BASE WAS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT
FOR A FORCE REDUCTION AGREEMENT. THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN
DEFECTED AS PREMATURE A QUESTION FROM ANOTHER
EASTERN CORRESPONDENT CONCERNING THE TIMING AND
CONTENT OF THE WESTERN REPLY TO THE EAST'S JUNE 8
PROPOSALS.

7. AT THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE ROUND,
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON JULY 17, EASTERN REPS DESCRIBED
HOW THE EAST HAD MOVED ON JUNE 8 TO ACCOMMODATE
SPECIFIC POINTS IN THE WESTERN POSITION AND IDEN-
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TIFIED POINTS IN THE ORIGINAL EASTERN POSITION WHICH,
THEY SAID, STILL MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN AN
AGREEMENT. THEY CRITICIZED THE WESTERN CONDUCT
OF THE DATA DISCUSSION AS LEADING NOWHERE AND

NOTED THAT THEY HAD VAINLY ASKED THE WEST TO TAKE STEPS WHICH COULD MAKE THE DISCUSSION MORE PRODUCTIVE. WESTERN REPS SAID THAT THE EAST'S JUNE 8 PROPOSALS OFFERED FAR LESS THAN THE WEST WAS ASKING FOR IN THE WAY OF EASTERN REDUCTIONS OBLIGATIONS, WHILE REQUIRING THE WEST TO UNDERTAKE ALL OF THE OBLIGATIONS IT HAD PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED FOR ITSELF IN RETURN. THEY IDENTIFIED THOSE PROVISIONS OF A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON WHICH THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR HAD THE GREATEST IMPACT. THE SESSION INCLUDED A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF DATA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND WESTERN REPS MADE THE POINT THAT EASTERN FIGURES FOR SOVIET AND POLISH PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO STAFF ALL THE UNITS WHICH THE EAST HAD STATED WERE COUNTED UNDER THAT CATEGORY.

8. ON JULY 18, THE AD HOC GROUP TRANSMITTED A REPORT TO THE NAC LISTING THE LATEST CLARIFICATIONS PROVIDED BY EASTERN REPS ON THE EAST'S JUNE 8 PROPOSALS AND REVIEWING THE STATUS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION. AS REGARDS THE LATTER, THE REPORT NOTED THAT THE PRESENT LINE OF WESTERN QUESTIONING HAD NEARLY RUN ITS COURSE AND SUGGESTED FOR THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION WAYS IN WHICH THE WEST MIGHT PROCEED IN THE FUTURE. THE OUTLINE, APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON JULY 19 FOR USE BY NETHERLANDS REP DEVOS IN MAKING THE GROUP'S JULY 20 REGULARLY SCHEDULED ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC, REITERATED THE GROUP'S BELIEF THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FOR THE COUNCIL TO EXAMINE HOW BEST TO PROSECUTE THE DATA DISCUSSION. THE OUTLINE ALSO CONTAINED THE POINT

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THAT, WHILE THE EAST MAY NOT BEGIN THE FALL ROUND BY PRESSING TOO SHARPLY FOR A WESTERN REPLY TO THE JUNE 8 EASTERN PROPOSALS, PRESSURES WOULD MOUNT LATER.

9. THE SIXTEENTH ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25. DEAN

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